



UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS WITH THE COVID “RELIEF” BONUS

The Democrats and the Biden Administration have proposed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 “relief” bill which includes an additional \$400 to the maximum weekly benefits of Americans receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) through August. Due to this sizeable bonus to typical UI benefits, over half of these employees will receive benefits greater than their earningsⁱ. In every state, the bonus UI results in income greater than the \$15 minimum wage that Democrats also propose. Congress should focus on reopening our economy and allowing individuals to safely return to work.

The following chart shows how combined state and federal UI benefits equate to an hourly wage on a state-by-state basis.ⁱⁱ

State	Max. State Weekly Benefits	Democrats' COVID "Relief"	Total Max Combined Weekly Benefit	Total Benefits per hour (based on 40 hr/wk)	Weekly Dependent Allowance	Adjusted Hourly Unemployment Benefit Rate
Alabama	\$275	\$400	\$675	\$16.87		
Alaska	\$370	\$400	\$770	\$19.25	\$72	\$21.05
Arizona	\$240	\$400	\$640	\$16.00		
Arkansas	\$451	\$400	\$851	\$21.27		
California	\$450	\$400	\$850	\$21.25		
Colorado	\$597	\$400	\$997	\$24.92		
Connecticut	\$649	\$400	\$1,049	\$26.22	\$75	\$28.10
Delaware	\$400	\$400	\$800	\$20.00		
Florida	\$275	\$400	\$675	\$16.87		
Georgia	\$365	\$400	\$765	\$19.12		
Hawaii	\$648	\$400	\$1,048	\$26.20		
Idaho	\$414	\$400	\$814	\$20.35		
Illinois	\$471	\$400	\$871	\$21.77	\$178	\$26.22
Indiana	\$390	\$400	\$790	\$19.75		
Iowa	\$591	\$400	\$991	\$24.77	\$106	\$27.42
Kansas	\$488	\$400	\$888	\$22.20		
Kentucky	\$552	\$400	\$952	\$23.80		
Louisiana	\$247	\$400	\$647	\$16.17		

Maine	\$414	\$400	\$814	\$20.35	\$215	\$25.72
Maryland	\$430	\$400	\$830	\$20.75		
Massachusetts	\$823	\$400	\$1,223	\$30.57	\$397	\$40.50
Michigan	\$362	\$400	\$762	\$19.05	\$209	\$24.27
Minnesota	\$717	\$400	\$1,117	\$27.92		
Mississippi	\$235	\$400	\$635	\$15.87		
Missouri	\$320	\$400	\$720	\$18.00		
Montana	\$552	\$400	\$952	\$23.80		
Nebraska	\$440	\$400	\$840	\$21.00		
Nevada	\$450	\$400	\$850	\$21.25		
New Hampshire	\$427	\$400	\$827	\$20.67		
New Jersey	\$696	\$400	\$1,096	\$27.40		
New Mexico	\$492	\$400	\$892	\$22.30	\$50	\$23.55
New York	\$504	\$400	\$904	\$22.60		
North Carolina	\$350	\$400	\$750	\$18.75	\$50	\$20.00
North Dakota	\$618	\$400	\$1,018	\$25.45		
Ohio	\$647	\$400	\$1,047	\$26.17	\$155	\$30.05
Oklahoma	\$520	\$400	\$920	\$23.00		
Oregon	\$648	\$400	\$1,048	\$26.20		
Pennsylvania	\$572	\$400	\$972	\$24.30	\$8	\$24.50
Rhode Island	\$586	\$400	\$986	\$24.65	\$144	\$28.25
South Carolina	\$326	\$400	\$726	\$18.15		
South Dakota	\$414	\$400	\$814	\$20.35		
Tennessee	\$275	\$400	\$675	\$16.87		
Texas	\$521	\$400	\$921	\$23.02		
Utah	\$560	\$400	\$960	\$24.00		
Vermont	\$513	\$400	\$913	\$22.82		
Virginia	\$378	\$400	\$778	\$19.45		
Washington, DC	\$425	\$400	\$825	\$20.62		
Washington	\$790	\$400	\$1,190	\$29.75		
West Virginia	\$424	\$400	\$824	\$20.60		
Wisconsin	\$370	\$400	\$770	\$19.25		
Wyoming	\$508	\$400	\$908	\$22.70		

ⁱ <https://www.americanactionforum.org/research/state-unemployment-benefits-and-returning-to-work/>

ⁱⁱ Chart compiled by RPC using data from <https://fileunemployment.org/unemployment-benefits/unemployment-benefits-comparisonby-state/> (February 25, 2021)